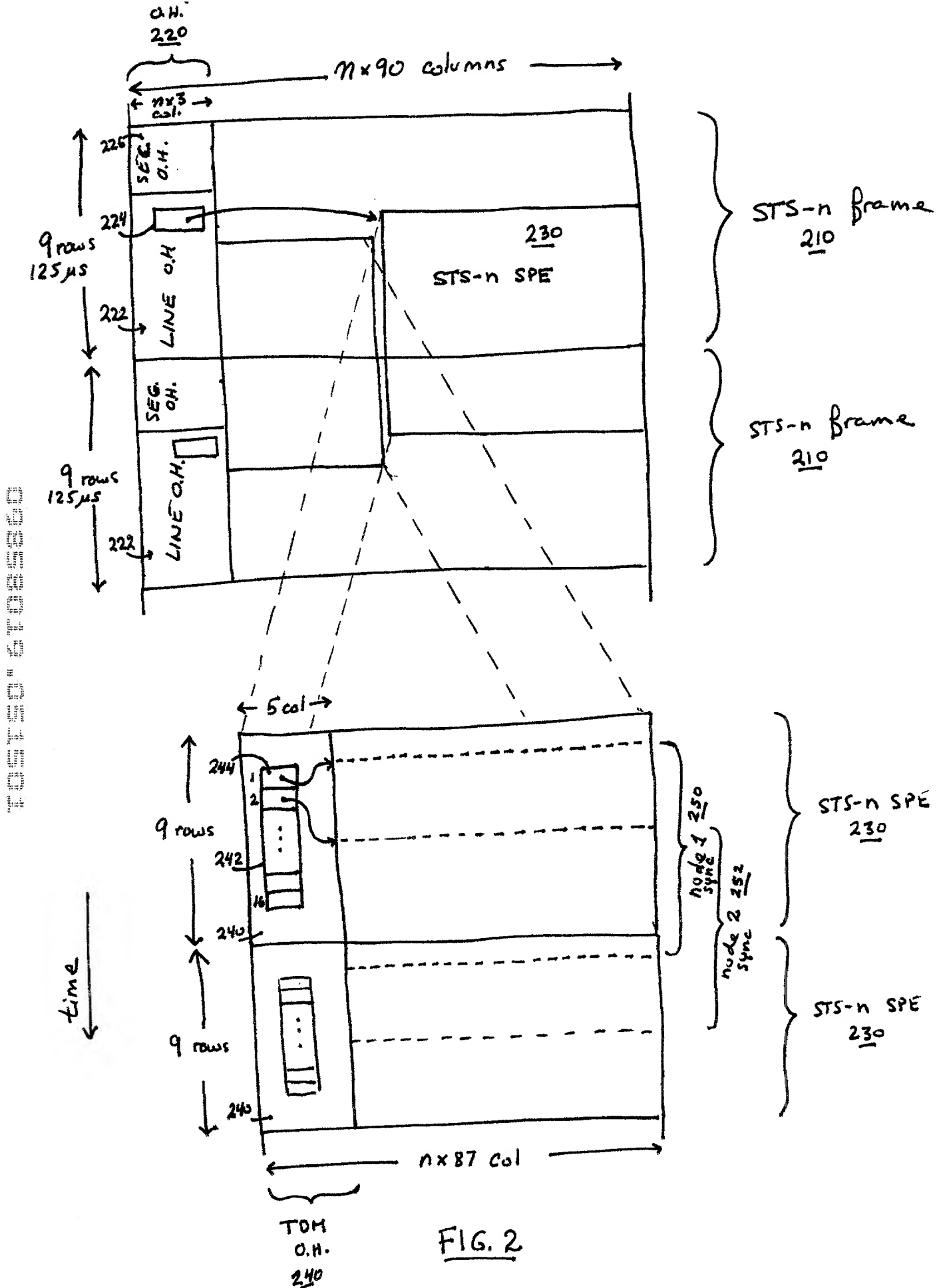


FIG. 1



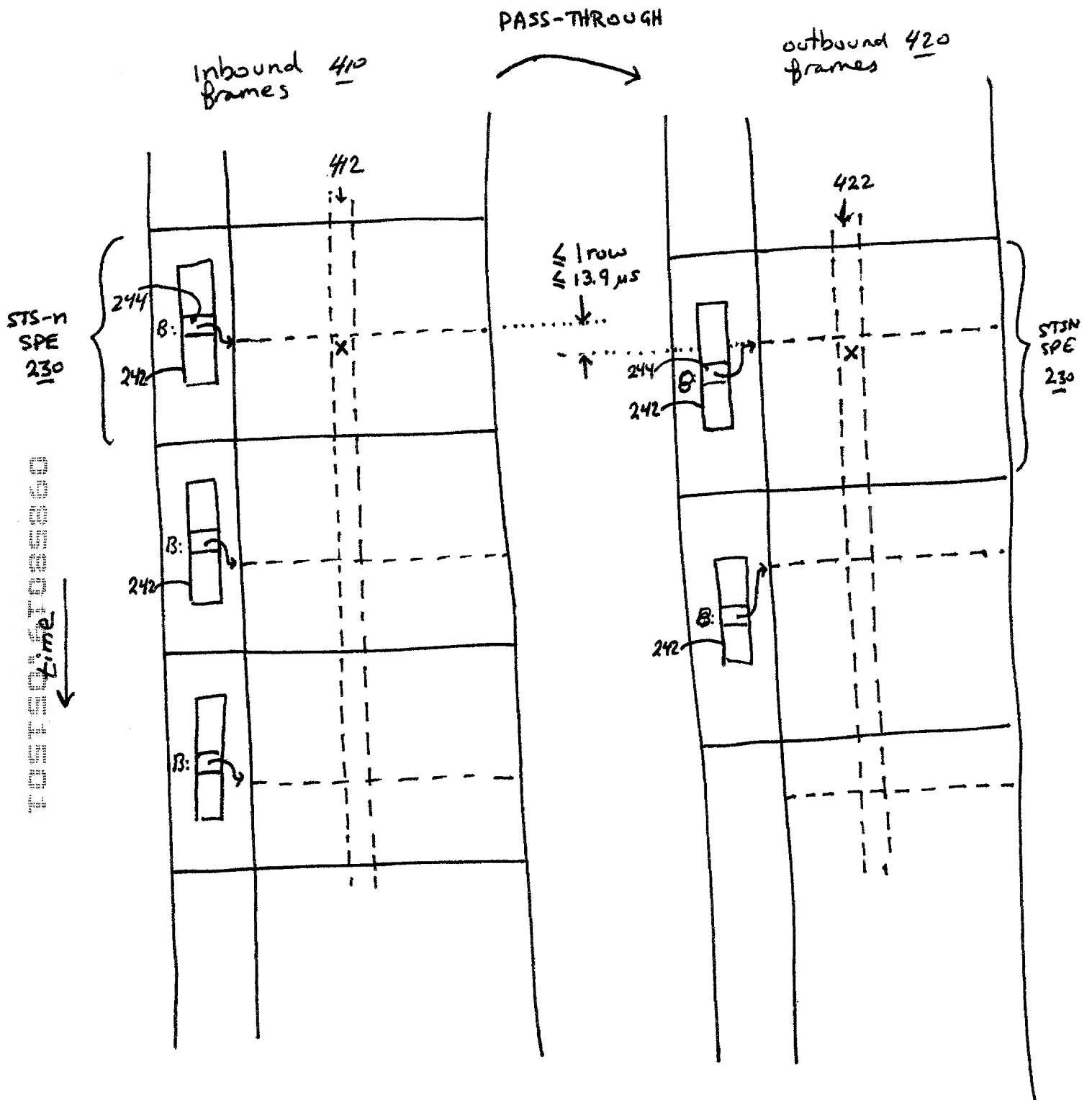


FIG. 4

inbound
STS-m
TDM channel

ADDING STS-m

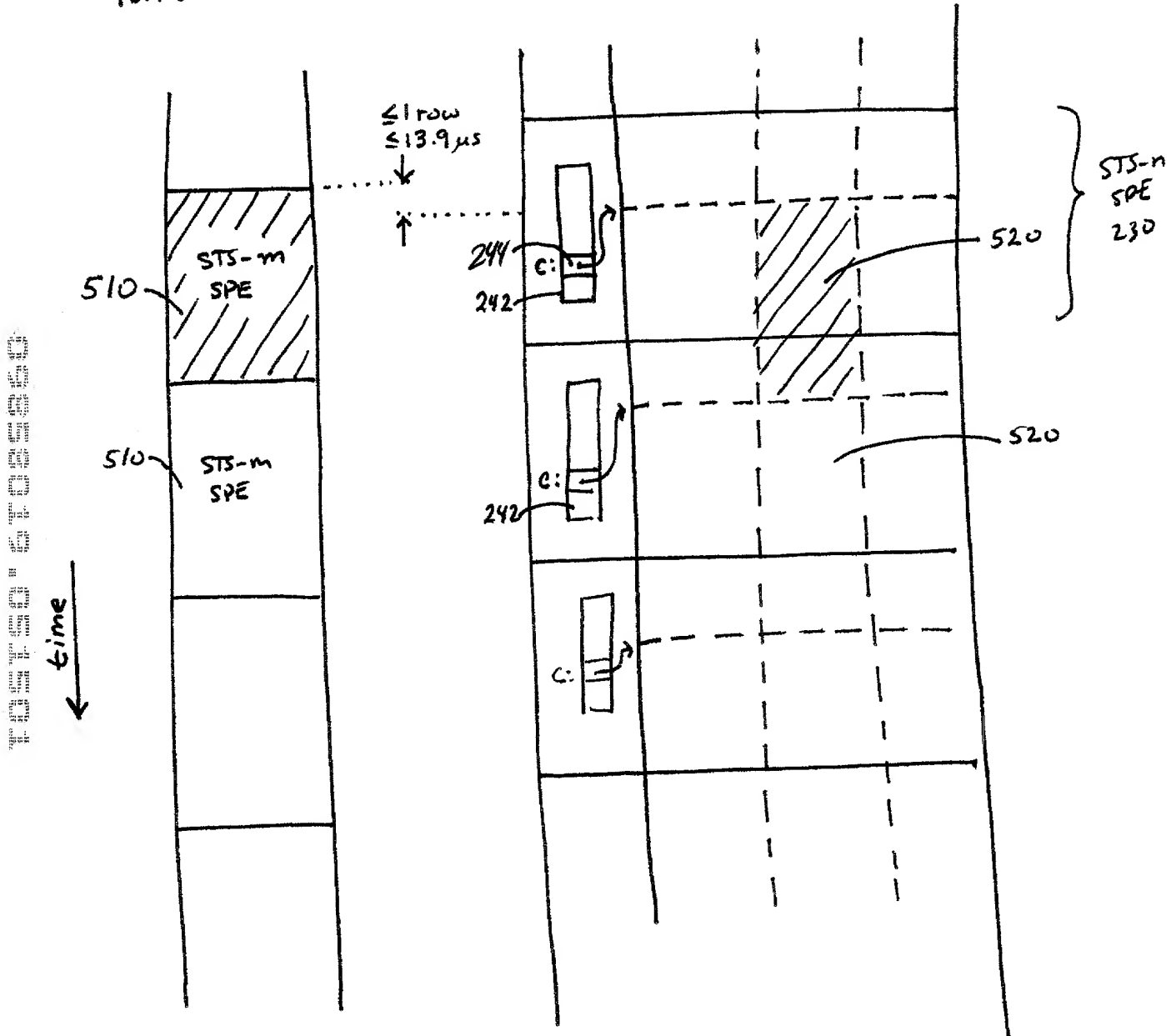


FIG. 5

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram of a system for adding a new virtual time slot (VT) to a set of existing VTs. The diagram shows a sequence of time slots (rows) and a new VT (column) being added. The new VT is added to the sequence of existing VTs, and the sequence is then processed by a system (STS-n SPE 230) to produce a new sequence of VTs. The new sequence of VTs is then processed by a system (STS-n SPE 230) to produce a new sequence of VTs.

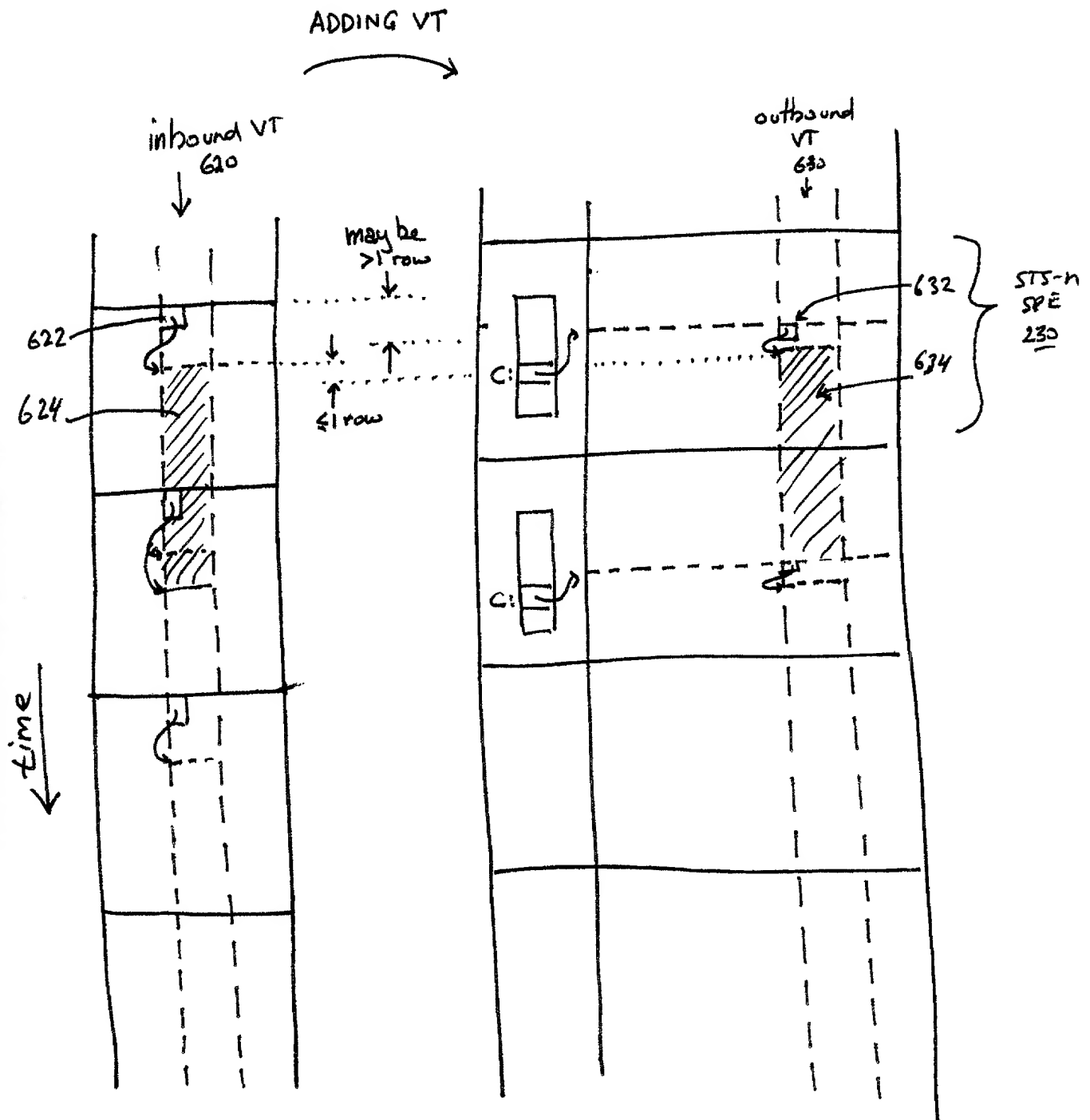


FIG. 6

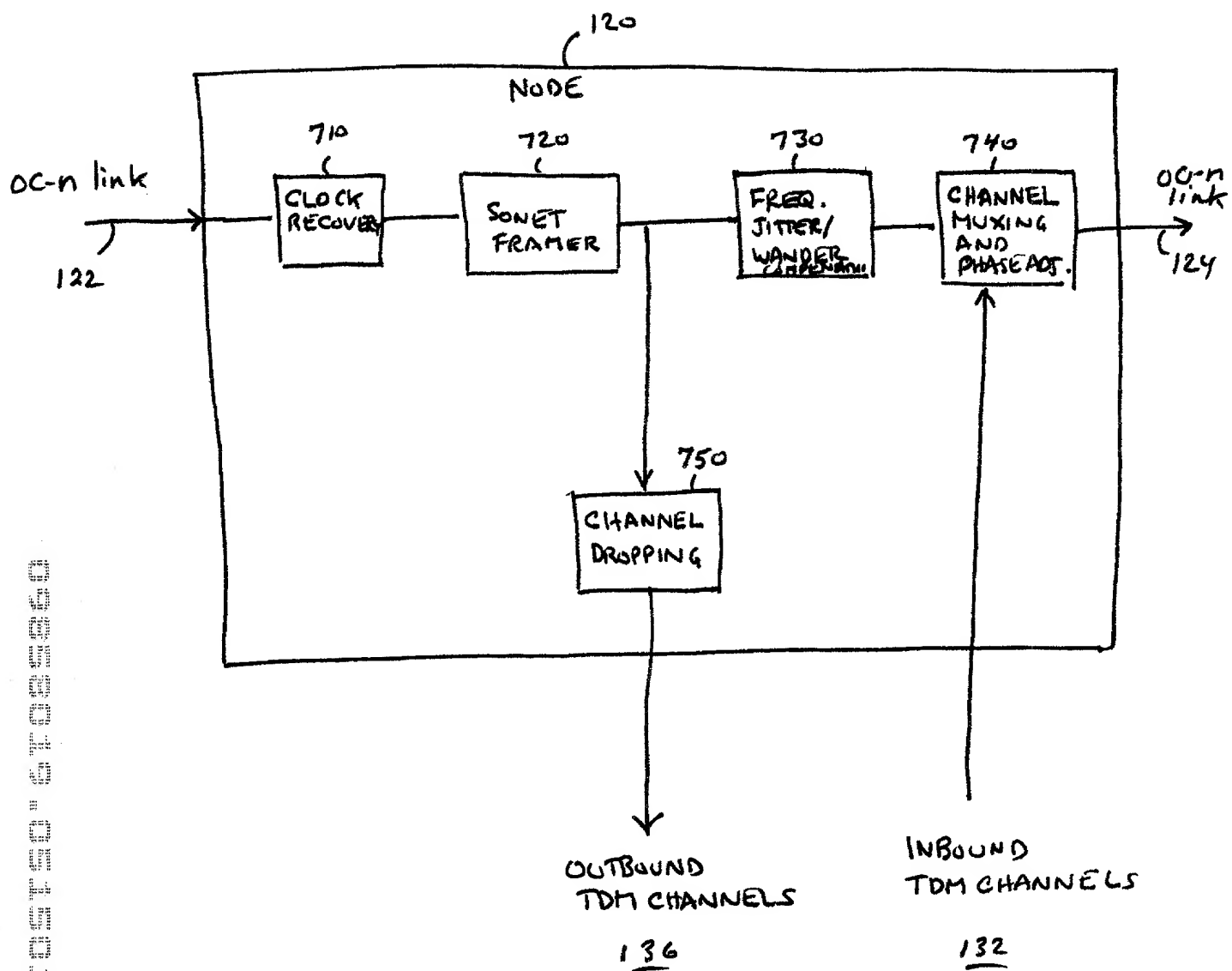


FIG. 7

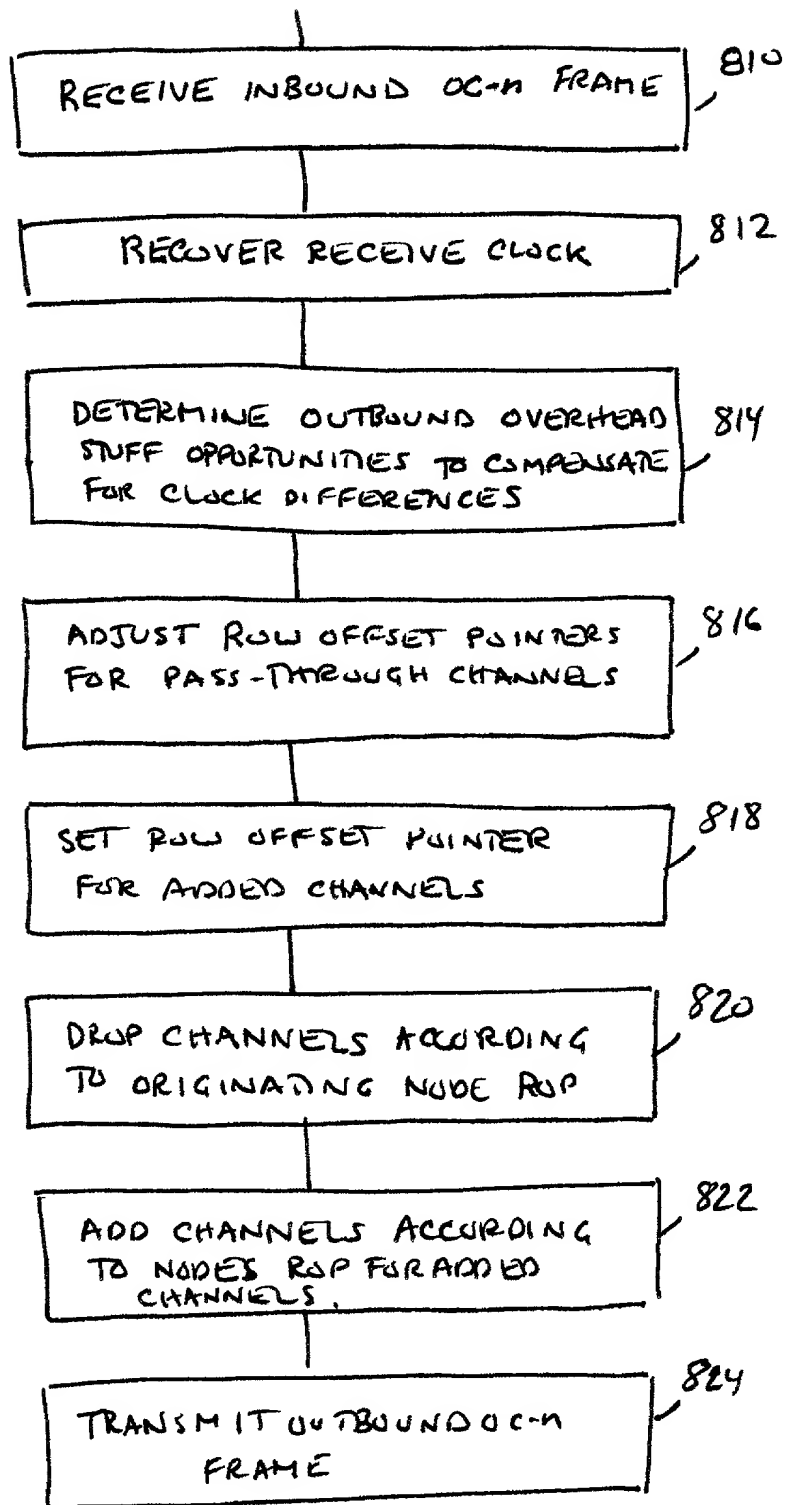


FIG. 8

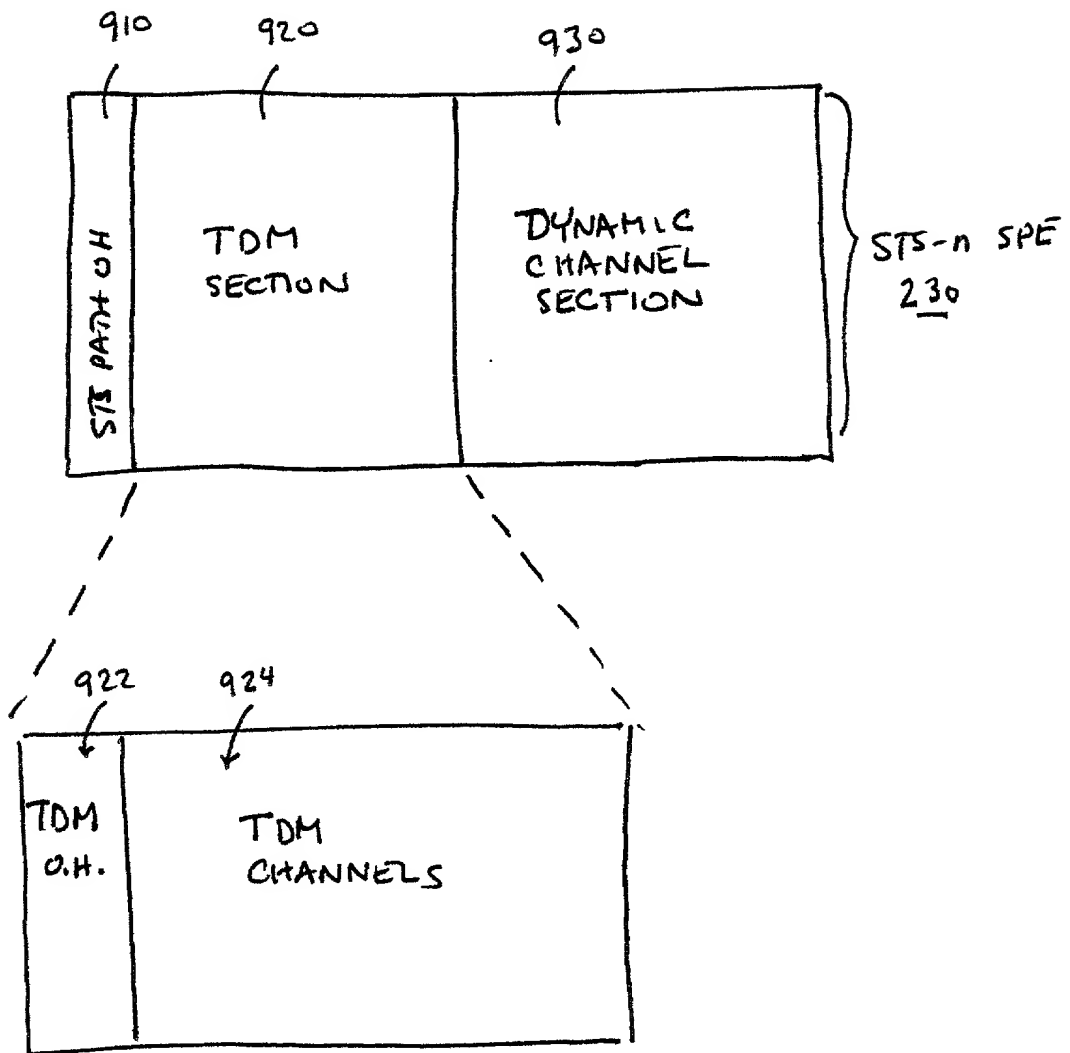


FIG. 9